

REMARKS

1. Entry of the response filed April, 2002 is noted and appreciated.
2. Claims 10-15 currently stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph for allegedly failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the present invention.

Claims 10 and 15 have been amended.

- 3-4. Claims 1-5 and 7-8 currently stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,146,168 to Ishii (hereinafter "Ishii").

Claim 1 recites a socket connector that includes a U-shaped first contact part and a second contact part that are mounted within a housing. However, a fair and proper reading of Ishii reveals that the first contact part 24 is not U-shaped (e.g., see FIGs. 7-8 of Ishii). The contact part 24 illustrated in FIGs. 7-8 of Ishii is more properly described as "J-shaped".

Claim 1 further recites that the U-shaped first contact part includes first and second walls that are nominally parallel. The Official Action alleges Ishii discloses a U-shaped contact part 24 that includes nominally parallel walls (Official Action, pg. 3). However, the first contact piece 24 illustrated in FIGs. 7-8 of Ishii does not include first and second walls that are nominally parallel. Specifically, as shown in FIG. 7 of Ishii, the first contact piece 24 is in its nominal position and a fair and proper review of the structure illustrated in FIG. 7 of Ishii reveals that the first contact piece 24 does not include parallel walls. The Official Action alleges that the

upper and lower parts (not labeled in the Ishii figures) of the first contact piece 24 provide the nominally parallel walls. However, although the first contact piece 24 is deflected to include parallel walls when the plug is inserted as shown in FIG. 8, this is not the nominal position, and in any event the contact piece disclosed in Ishii is not U-shaped.

As amended, claim 1 of the present invention also recites that the first and second walls are configured such that, when:

“...the plug connector is inserted along said center axis into said socket receiving aperture said first wall flexes radially with respect to said center axis breaking the electrical connection between said U-shaped contact part and said second contact part.” (emphasis added, cl. 1).

As recited in claim 1 of the present invention, the first wall flexes radially with respect to the center axis of the socket aperture when the plug connector is inserted into the socket receiving aperture. The socket assembly disclosed in Ishii includes a first contact piece 24 (col. 4, lines 56-65) that is in electrical contact with a second contact piece 25 until a plug is inserted into the socket, which electrically disengages the first and second contact pieces 24, 25. See FIGs. 7 and 8 of Ishii. However, in Ishii the insertion of the plug *axially* displaces a wall of the first contact piece 24 to terminate the electrical connection between the first and second contact pieces. That is, as illustrated in FIG. 8 of Ishii, when the pin terminal 7 contacts the second projection 27, the pin terminal 7 causes the lower wall of the first contact 24 to flex *axially* with respect to the axis along which the plug is inserted. In contrast, in the socket recited in claim 1, insertion of the plug causes a wall of the first contact part to flex *radially* with respect to the axis along which the plug is inserted.

A 35 U.S.C. §102(b) rejection requires that a single reference teach each and every element of the claimed invention. However, Ishii fails to disclose a number of elements recited in claim 1. For example, Ishii fails to disclose a U-shaped contact part. Ishii also fails to disclose parallel walls. Furthermore, Ishii also fails to disclose a first wall that flexes radially with respect to the center axis of the socket aperture when the plug connector is inserted into the socket receiving aperture. Hence, for at least any of the reasons set forth above, Ishii is incapable of anticipating claims 1-5 and 7-8.

5. The indication that claims 6 and 9 contain allowable subject matter, and would be allowed if rewritten into independent claim format is noted and appreciated. However, since claim 1 is patentable for at least the reasons set forth above, it is respectfully submitted that rewriting claims 6 and 9 into independent form is not required to secure their allowance.

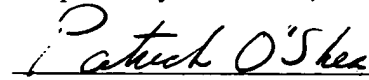
6. The indication that claims 10-15 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph rejection is noted and appreciated.

Claims 10 and 15 have been amended. It is respectfully submitted that claims 10-15 are now in condition for allowance.

For all the foregoing reasons, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-15 is respectfully requested.

If a telephone interview could assist in the prosecution of this application, please call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

Amend claims 1, 10 and 15 as follows:

1.(amended) A socket connector that mates with a plug connector to establish an electrical plug connector assembly, said socket connector comprising:

a housing that includes a socket receiving aperture having a center axis and formed by a housing wall;

a U-shaped first contact part mounted within said housing and including first and second walls that are nominally parallel; and

a second contact part mounted within said housing to nominally contact said first movable contact part in order provide an electrical connection between said first and second contact parts, wherein when the plug connector is inserted along said center axis into said socket receiving aperture said first wall flexes radially with respect to said center axis ~~second wall~~ breaking the electrical connection between said U-shaped contact part and said second ~~second~~ contact part.

10.(Amended) A plug connector that mates with a socket connector to establish an electrical plug connector assembly, said plug connector comprising:

a housing;

a contact pin that runs axially through at least a portion of the length of said housing, and includes a pin base portion and a pin projecting portion;

an insulating shell that coaxially surrounds said pin base portion;

a metallic shell that coaxially surrounds said insulating shell; and

a spring loaded slider shell that in spaced relationship coaxially surrounds said pin projecting portion, wherein said spring loaded slider shell axially slides upward when said plug connector is inserted into the socket connector to expose said pin projecting portion, ~~to axially beyond the upwardly slid said spring loaded slider shell.~~

15.(amended) An electrical plug connector assembly, comprising:

A. a socket connector, that includes

a socket housing having a socket receiving aperture formed by a housing wall;

a U-shaped first contact part mounted within said socket housing and including first and second walls that are nominally parallel;

a second contact part mounted within said socket housing to nominally contact said first movable contact part in order provide an electrical connection between said first and second contact parts; wherein when a plug connector is inserted into said socket receiving aperture said first wall flexes relative to said second wall breaking the electrical connection between said U-shaped contact part and said second ~~second~~ contact part;

B. said plug connector comprising

a plug housing;

a contact pin that runs axially through at least a portion of the length of said plug housing, and includes a pin base portion and a pin projecting portion;

an insulating shell that coaxially surrounds said pin base portion;

a metallic shell that coaxially surrounds said insulating shell; and

a spring loaded slider shell that in spaced relationship coaxially surrounds said pin projecting portion, wherein said slider shell axially slides upward when said plug connector is inserted into said socket connector to expose said pin projecting portion that axially projects beyond ~~the upwardly slid~~ said spring loaded slider shell and engages said first wall causing said first wall to radially flex relative to said second wall.